Stratford-Lemoore CAPM

On State Route 41 in Kings County 06-KIN-041-PM 28.4-R39.8 Project Number 0617000304

Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Volume 1 of 2



Prepared by the State of California Department of Transportation

January 2022



General Information About This Document

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project in Kings County in California. The document explains why the project is being proposed, the alternatives being considered for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

What you should do:

- Please read the document. Additional copies of the document and the related technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans District 6 office at 1352 West Olive Avenue, Fresno, California 93728, the Kings County Library–Hanford Branch at 401 North Douty Street, Hanford, California 93230, the Kings County Library-Lemoore Branch at 457 C Street, Lemoore, California 93245, and the Kings County Library-Stratford Branch at 20300 Main Street, Stratford, California 93266.
- Tell us what you think. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to: Juergen Vespermann, District 6 Environmental Division, California Department of Transportation, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93726. Submit comments via email to: Juergen.Vespermann@dot.ca.gov.
- Submit comments by the deadline: April 21, 2022

What happens next:

After comments are received from the public and the reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

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For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attention: Juergen Vespermann, District 6 Environmental Division, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93726; 559-832-0051 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1-800-735-2929 (Teletype to Voice), 1-800-735-2922 (Voice to Teletype), 1-800-855-3000 (Spanish Teletype to Voice and Voice to Teletype), 1-800-854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech-to-Speech), or 711.

06-KIN-041-PM 28.4-R39.8 Project Number 0617000304

Pavement preservation and culvert repair at various locations on State Route 41 from post miles 28.4 to R39.8 in Kings County

INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA Department of Transportation

Jennifer H. Taylor Jennifer H. Taylor

Jennifer H. Taylor Environmental Office Chief, District 6 California Department of Transportation CEQA Lead Agency

01/25/2022

Date

The following individual can be contacted for more information about this document:

Juergen Vespermann, District 6 Environmental Division, California Department of Transportation; 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93726; 559-832-0051



Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

District-County-Route-Post Mile: 06-KIN-041-PM 28.4-R39.8 EA/Project Number: EA 06-0W820 and Project Number 0617000304

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to preserve and resurface the existing lanes on State Route 41, including three ramps in Kings County near Stratford from Nevada Avenue (post mile 28.4) to the State Route 41/State Route 198 Separation Bridge (post mile R39.8).

Determination

An Initial Study has been prepared by Caltrans, District 6.

On the basis of this study, it is determined that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The project would have no effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, paleontological resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

The project would have no significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions.

The project would have no significantly adverse effect on biological resources with the incorporation of the identified mitigation measure because the following mitigation measure would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

• A Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be obtained for the Tipton kangaroo rat. Caltrans will purchase 0.02 acre worth of credits for permanent habitat and temporary habitat impacts.

Jennifer H. Taylor Environmental Office Chief, District 6 California Department of Transportation

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1.1 Introduction

This Capital Preventive Maintenance (known as a "CAPM" project, as noted in the project name) project proposes to preserve and resurface the existing lanes on State Route 41 (see Figure 1-1 for the project vicinity map and Figure 1-2 for the project location map), including three ramps in Kings County near Stratford from Nevada Avenue (post mile 28.4) to the State Route 41/State Route 198 Separation Bridge (post mile R39.8). State Route 41 serves as a major arterial roadway for northbound and southbound traffic in Kings County and connects to State Route 198 and Interstate 5.

The project limits begin about 5 miles south of the census-designated town of Stratford, in a rural, agricultural area consisting of row crops, rural houses, and vacant land. State Route 41 extends northward, paralleled by the Blakeley Canal and next to the southern portion of the Kings River, until passing by the census-designated town of Stratford. State Route 41 extends north, about 6 miles bordered by sporadic rural houses, agricultural and vacant lands, animal farms, and solar energy farms. The project limits end just south of the State Route 41/State Route 198 Separation Bridge and the City of Lemoore.

State Route 41 is a two-lane, undivided highway between post mile 28.4 and post mile 39.24 and is a four-lane, access-controlled expressway between post mile 39.24 and post mile R39.8. Shoulder widths vary along the inside and outside of State Route 41 within the project limits. State Route 41 serves as a major corridor for interregional traffic and is heavily used by trucks and commuters between communities and rural agricultural areas.

1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the project is to preserve, repair, and extend the life of the existing lanes and three ramps on State Route 41 near Stratford from Nevada Avenue to the State Route 41/State Route 198 Separation Bridge in Kings County.

1.2.2 Need

The existing state route within the project limits shows considerable distress on its existing flexible pavement. The project is needed to rehabilitate the existing pavement conditions, extend the life of the roadway, and minimize future maintenance expenditures.

1.3 Project Description

The project would preserve and resurface the existing lanes on State Route 41, including three ramps in Kings County near Stratford from Nevada Avenue (post mile 28.4) to the State Route 41/State Route 198 Separation Bridge (post mile R39.8). A Build Alternative and a No-Build Alternative are under consideration for this project. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$18,086,000. This Capital Preventive Maintenance project would be funded under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

The project would repair or replace 12 culverts along the northbound and southbound sides of State Route 41. Clearing, grubbing, and trenching are expected for culvert work, intelligent transportation system elements (traffic count stations and vehicle classification systems used to obtain traffic data and vehicle volume, class, and weight), and electrical facilities. No trenching would be done across State Route 41.

The public would be notified of the construction schedule once a start date has been determined. During construction, K-rail would support a single-lane closure, with flagmen directing reverse traffic lanes. Reverse traffic lanes designate a flagger on either side of the construction work zone that controls the flow of traffic intermittently, with one direction closed and the other direction open to traffic. Emergency vehicle services will be accommodated, and a minimal to no delay is expected, depending on the time of the day and the location of the closure (four-lane area compared to a two-lane area)

The public would be notified of appropriate ramp closures, including the closure of the nearby State Route 41/State Route 198 southbound ramp. Caltrans will utilize press releases, media alerts, signage, and a lane closure website to communicate lane and ramp closures to the public. No other detours aside from ramp closure detours are expected for this project.









1.4 **Project Alternatives**

A Build Alternative and a No-Build Alternative are being considered for the project.

1.4.1 Build Alternative

The project work would include:

Paving:

Remove up to 0.20 foot of existing asphalt concrete pavement and replace with 0.20 foot of Hot Mix Asphalt and 0.10 foot of Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt.

Culverts:

Replace sections of culverts and/or flared end sections at 12 locations within the project limits. Pipe removal shall start 2 feet away from the inside face of the headwall (see table below for details).

| Location Existing | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|--|--|
| (Post | Culvert Material | Diameter | | |
| Mile) | | (Inches) | | |
| 04.00 | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace the flared end section along | |
| 31.33 | Concrete Pipe | | southbound travel lanes. | |
| 22.42 | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace the flared end section under | |
| 33.13 | Concrete Pipe | | the pavement nearest to the shoulder. | |
| | Reinforced | 18 | Remove and replace 33 feet on the west side and | |
| 33.18 | Concrete Pipe | | 39 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of an | |
| 55.10 | | | 18-inch reinforced concrete pipe outside the | |
| | | | traveled way. | |
| 33.48 | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace the flared end section under | |
| 00.40 | Concrete Pipe | | the pavement nearest to the shoulder. | |
| | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace 31 feet on the west side and | |
| 33.67 | Concrete Pipe | | 32 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of a 24- | |
| 00.01 | | | inch reinforced concrete pipe outside the traveled | |
| | | | way. | |
| | Reinforced | 36 | Remove and replace 34 feet on the west side and | |
| 34.01 | Concrete Pipe | | 29 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of a 36- | |
| | | | inch reinforced concrete pipe outside the traveled | |
| | | | way. | |
| | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace 18 feet on the west side and | |
| 34.47 | Concrete Pipe | | 24 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of a 24- | |
| | | | inch reinforced concrete pipe outside the traveled | |
| | Corrugated Steel | 18 | way. | |
| | Corrugated Steel | 10 | Remove and replace 10 feet on the west side and 12 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of an | |
| 36.10 | Pipe | | 18-inch corrugated steel pipe outside of the | |
| | | | traveled way. | |
| | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace 19 feet on the west side and | |
| | Concrete Pipe | <u> </u> | 22 feet on the east side of State Route 41 of a 24- | |
| 37.57 | o onoroto r ipo | | inch reinforced concrete pipe outside of the | |
| | | | traveled way. Remove and replace two concrete | |
| | | | flared end sections. | |
| 07.00 | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace one concrete flared end | |
| 37.63 | Concrete Pipe | | section along the northbound shoulder. | |
| | Reinforced | 24 | Remove and replace 15 feet of a 24-inch | |
| 00.40 | Concrete Pipe | | reinforced concrete pipe outside of the traveled | |
| 38.13 | | | way. Remove and replace two flared end | |
| | | | sections. | |
| 22.02 | Reinforced | 42 | Repair separated and cracked joints within the | |
| 33.82 | Concrete Pipe | | existing pipe. | |
| | • | | | |

Table 1.1 Culvert Improvements on State Route 41

Guardrail:

- Update 3,900 feet of existing metal beam guardrail to the Midwest Guardrail System.
- Provide vegetation control at five locations where guardrails are needed. Concrete would be installed from the guardrails outward to prevent weeds.

Other safety upgrades:

- Replace sign panels with retroreflective sheeting, as needed.
- Provide rumble strips on the centerline of State Route 41 and bicycletolerable rumble strips on the outside shoulder for both northbound and southbound State Route 41.
- Upgrade five Traffic Count Station Systems at post miles 28.57, 32.94, 39.73, 39.78 (State Route 41 southbound off-ramp to eastbound State Route 198), and 39.73 (State Route 41 southbound on-ramp to eastbound State Route 198).
- Upgrade one Vehicle Classification System at post mile 37.18.

Right-of-Way:

- Acquire a 50-by-50-foot temporary construction easement at post mile 33.18 to move a headwall from private property to the state right-of-way (see table below for details).
- Permanent right-of-way acquisition would occur at post mile 33.82 to accommodate the culvert that extends outside of the current right-of-way and future culvert maintenance (see table below for details).

| Permanent or Temporary | Location (Post Mile) | Assessor's Parcel Number | Area (Acre) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Temporary | 33.18 | 026-120-003-000 | 0.057 |
| Permanent | 33.82 | 026-100-017-000 | 0.064 |

Table 1.2 Temporary and Permanent Right-of-Way Acquisitions

Construction is scheduled to start in spring 2024 and is expected to take 119 working days. Night work is expected for this project.

This project contains a number of standardized project measures that are used on most, if not all, Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impact resulting from the proposed project. These measures are listed later in this chapter under "Standard Measures and Best Management Practices Included in All Alternatives."

1.4.2 No-Build (No-Action) Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would allow the existing pavement to continue to deteriorate, which would require more extensive and costly repairs in the future. The existing culverts identified for repair or replacement by this project would also continue to deteriorate, which would cause potential flood damage and pavement failure. The No-Build Alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project.

1.5 Standard Measures and Best Management Practices Included in the Build Alternative

The project may include, but would not be limited to, the following Standard Special Provisions:

Air Quality – Effectively reduce and control emission impacts during construction. The provisions of Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9.02 "Air Pollution Control" and Section 10-5 "Dust Control.

Biology—Swainson's hawk preconstruction surveys will be completed according to "Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley" (May 31, 2001) during nesting season (February 1 to September 30) the year prior to groundbreaking activities to ensure no nesting Swainson's hawks will be affected if construction is to occur during the nesting season.

Hazardous Waste – Applicable Standard Special Provisions may include, but not be limited to: Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(ii) Lead Compliance Plan; Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K (6)(j)(iii)—ground disturbance of unregulated materials; Standard Special Provision 14-11.08 ground disturbance of regulated Aerially Deposited Lead materials; Non-Standard Special Provision 14-11.14—disposal and handling of treated wood waste; Standard Special Provision 36-4 and/or 84-9.03B—cold-planing and/or removal of white/new yellow striping material; and/or Standard Special Provision 14-11.12—removal of old yellow striping material. An Asbestos Compliance Plan will be required for project activities.

Paleontological – If unanticipated fossil discovery occurs during utility work, Specification 14-7.03 of the 2018 *Standard Specifications* identifies the procedure to be implemented to protect the paleontological resource(s).

1.6 Discussion of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion

This document contains information regarding compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other state laws and regulations. Separate environmental documentation, supporting a Categorical Exclusion determination, will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. When needed for clarity, or as required by CEQA, this document may contain references to federal laws and/or regulations (CEQA, for example, requires consideration of adverse effects on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is, species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act).

1.7 Permits and Approvals Needed

The following permits, licenses, agreements, and certifications are required for project construction:

| Agency | Permit/Approval | Status |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| California Department of | Section 2081 Incidental Take | Will be obtained during |
| Fish and Wildlife | Permit for the Tipton kangaroo | the design phase of the |
| | rat | project. |
| U.S. Fish and Wildlife | | Will be obtained during |
| Service | Biological Opinion | the design phase of the |
| Service | | project. |
| Regional Water Quality | | Will be obtained during |
| Regional Water Quality Control Board | Report of Waste Discharge | the construction phase |
| | | of the project. |

2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. Potential impact determinations include Significant and Unavoidable Impact, Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated, Less Than Significant Impact, and No Impact. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with a project will indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A "No Impact" answer reflects this determination. The questions in this checklist are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Project features, which can include both design elements of the project and standardized measures that are applied to all or most Caltrans projects such as Best Management Practices and measures included in the Standard Plans and Specifications or as Standard Special Provisions, are considered to be an integral part of the project and have been considered prior to any significance determinations documented below.

"No Impact" determinations in each section are based on the scope, description, and location of the proposed project as well as the appropriate technical report (bound separately in Volume 2), and no further discussion is included in this document.

2.1.1 Aesthetics

Considering the information in the Scenic Resource Evaluation/Visual Impact Assessment dated August 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics |
|---|--|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | No Impact |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | No Impact |

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics |
|---|--|
| c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? | No Impact |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | No Impact |

2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Considering the information in the California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder dated November 2021 and the Caltrans Right-of-Way Data Sheet, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources |
|---|---|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | No Impact |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources |
|--|---|
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | No Impact |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? | No Impact |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | No Impact |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | No Impact |

2.1.3 Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Considering the information in the Air Quality Memorandum dated April 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality |
|---|---|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | No Impact |
| b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard? | No Impact |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | No Impact |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality |
|---|---|
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | No Impact |

2.1.4 Biological Resources

Considering the information in the Caltrans Biological Assessment dated September 2021 and the Natural Environment Study dated December 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources |
|---|--|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries? | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | No Impact |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | No Impact |
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | No Impact |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | No Impact |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources |
|---|--|
| f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | No Impact |

Affected Environment

For details of biological studies, please refer to the Natural Environment Study and the Biological Assessment in Volume 2. A list of federally endangered species and critical habitat(s) that may be affected by the proposed project was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 14, 2020, and an updated version on September 7, 2021, see Appendix B.

The project limits along State Route 41 are predominately surrounded by agriculture, grazing land, and the census-designated town of Stratford. The project action area encompasses about 100 feet on either side of the roadway to account for staging, installing intelligence elements, and preserving culverts. Caltrans biologists analyzed a total of 273.6 acres or 0.43 square mile of the project action area. The habitat within the action area consists of Caltrans' right-of-way, the Blakeley Canal, the Kings River, valley grasslands, and moderately developed commercial and residential areas. The project footprint encompasses 30 feet on either side of the roadway and around each proposed culvert where direct work would occur, such as foot traffic and use of heavy equipment. The project footprint or temporary impacts include 82.92 acres or 0.129 square mile.

Based on in-office research (California Native Plant Society, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and field surveys, Caltrans biologists determined there is potentially suitable habitat for the California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californicus*), the San Joaquin woollythreads (*Monolopia congdonii*), the San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), and the Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*) that may be present within the project footprint.

The project may affect and is not likely to adversely affect the following species and their habitat.

California jewelflower

The California jewelflower is a federal and state endangered species and is ranked 1B.1 by the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California.

This species of jewelflower is native to California and is typically found in Southern San Joaquin Valley counties. No California jewelflowers were seen

during botanical surveys. Although none were seen, suitable habitat is present in the action area and surrounding area.

San Joaquin woollythreads

The San Joaquin woollythread is a federally endangered species and is ranked 1B.2 by the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California.

The San Joaquin woollythread is a native species that is limited to California. The species is typically found in chenopod scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and loamy plains. No San Joaquin woollythreads were found during botanical surveys. Although none were seen, suitable habitat is present in the action area.

San Joaquin kit fox

The San Joaquin kit fox is a small canid native to the San Joaquin Valley and is listed as a federally and state endangered species.

On average, this species weighs about 5 pounds and stands about 12 inches tall. The San Joaquin kit fox is mostly nocturnal and feeds on small nocturnal rodents. They typically use various types of agricultural land for denning sites and suitable prey bases. They can also use human-made structures such as culverts and pipes for denning. Historically, this species of fox prefers alkali scrub/shrub, oak woodland, vernal pool communities, and arid grassland habitat.

The San Joaquin kit fox has been found in most of the San Joaquin Valley, ranging from the native valley and foothill grasslands to surrounding foothills. No San Joaquin kit foxes were seen during general wildlife surveys. Although denning and foraging habitat was not found in the action area, the San Joaquin kit fox can cross through the action area.

The project may affect and is likely to adversely affect the following species and their habitat.

Tipton kangaroo rat

The Tipton kangaroo rat is one of three subspecies of the San Joaquin kangaroo rat and is listed as a federally and state endangered species.

This species of kangaroo rat mainly eats seeds, plants, and insects. Foraging activities typically occur from sunset to sunrise and are greatest in the spring while plants are ripening. Tipton kangaroo rat habitat has decreased in recent years due to agriculture and urban development. The current existing habitat consists of iodine bush shrubland and valley saltbush scrub. This species of kangaroo rat is typically seen on flat terrain, and burrows are often found on elevated mounds, such as berms, embankments, or bases of shrubs and fence posts.

The Tipton kangaroo rat has been found spread over the Tulare basin in Tulare and Kern Counties. Currently, about 3.7 percent of their historical habitat range exists today. No Tipton kangaroo rats were seen during surveys. However, surveys were completed during daylight when the species is least active. Species observations were made about 4 miles east of the action area.

Environmental Consequences

Build Alternative

California jewelflower

Construction activities are expected to have minimal and temporary effects on low-quality California jewelflower habitat. Any potential habitat that could be disrupted by construction activities would be available for use after construction. Construction disturbance is unlikely for the California jewelflower because only a limited area within the project is considered suitable habitat, and no evidence of their occupancy in the action area has been seen.

San Joaquin woollythreads

Construction activities are expected to have minimal and temporary effects on low-quality San Joaquin woollythreads habitat. Any potential habitat that could be disrupted by construction activities would be available for use after construction. Construction disturbance is unlikely for the San Joaquin woollythreads because only a limited area within the project is considered suitable habitat, and no evidence of their occupancy in the action area has been seen.

San Joaquin kit fox

Construction activities are expected to occur during nighttime hours when San Joaquin kit foxes are active and above ground. Any disturbance associated with construction activities may disrupt movement if the species are seen in the action area.

Minor permanent and temporary impacts are expected to potential foraging habitat. Impacts may result from foot traffic, heavy equipment use, and culvert work. About 82.92 acres would be temporarily impacted over the 11-mile-long project area, and 0.0069 acre would be permanently impacted due to flared end culvert repair work.

Each culvert is expected to take three days to complete, and a majority of the work would occur at night. Night work increases the risk of San Joaquin kit foxes being exposed to hazardous and dangerous conditions because they are generally nocturnal. It is possible that dispersing San Joaquin kit foxes could move near or across work areas overnight. However, San Joaquin kit foxes would be expected to avoid active work sites due to human presence, lighting, and active machinery. Avoidance of the action area could cause a temporary reduction in movement. This impact is expected to be minimal

since there are no current sightings or evidence of scat or prey remains by San Joaquin kit foxes within the action area.

Tipton kangaroo rat

About 0.0003 acre of Tipton kangaroo rat habitat would be permanently impacted from the installation of culvert flared end sections, and 0.011 acre would be temporarily impacted from foot traffic and off-pavement equipment use.

Permanent impacts may result from the collapsing of burrows near the culvert outlets at post mile 37.57 and post mile 37.63 near Jackson Avenue in documented Tipton kangaroo rat habitat. Based on recent surveys, previous protocol-level surveys, existing habitat condition, and the work anticipated, the proposed construction activities are anticipated to potentially adversely impact the species.

No-Build Alternative

No impacts to biological resources are expected under the No-Build Alternative.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Build Alternative

Tipton kangaroo rat

- Construction activities would permanently impact about 0.0003 acre and temporarily impact 0.011 acre of Tipton kangaroo rat habitat. The impacts would be mitigated by purchasing credits at a 3 to 1 ratio for permanent impacts and a 1 to 1 ratio for temporary impacts. A total of 0.02 acre would be mitigated.
- Due to potential impacts to burrows, Caltrans anticipates applying for a 2081 Incidental Take Permit from California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Exclusionary fencing would be installed around the two culverts near Jackson Avenue at post mile 37.63 and post mile 37.73. Exclusionary trapping would occur before construction and would continue until three consecutive nights result in no caught mammals. Traps would be placed within the 30-foot work area, and captured individuals would be relocated out of the fenced area.
- Burrows within 50 feet of the work area (culvert opening) would be flagged and avoided except for the culverts at post mile 37.63 and post mile 37.73, where exclusionary trapping would occur.

Caltrans and the contractor would implement the following Standard Best Management Practices during construction:

- Preconstruction worker environmental awareness training conducted by a qualified biologist for migratory birds, the San Joaquin kit fox, and the Tipton kangaroo rat would be required before the start of construction activities.
- Preconstruction surveys for migratory birds would be required if construction is to occur during the avian nesting season (February 1 to September 30). A qualified biologist would complete surveys for migratory birds and raptors no more than 30 days before construction.
- Preconstruction surveys for the San Joaquin kit fox and other specialstatus species would include a 200-foot buffer around the work area and are to be conducted no more than 30 days before any ground disturbance.
- If staging areas are required, they must be approved by the project biologist and would be clearly designated with stakes/flagging. Storage of equipment and materials would not extend beyond the designated staging area.
- Provide an on-call biologist. A qualified biologist would be on call during construction in case of any San Joaquin kit fox or Tipton kangaroo rat sightings in the vicinity of the project.

California jewelflower and San Joaquin woollythreads

 If California jewelflowers and/or San Joaquin woollythreads are identified during preconstruction surveys, they would be flagged and avoided as best as possible. If they cannot be avoided, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be consulted before continuing work.

San Joaquin kit fox

- Provide escape ramps for any trenches more than 2 feet deep. All excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep would be fitted with one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they would be inspected for trapped animals.
- Inspect construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or greater that are stored on the site for one or more overnight periods would be thoroughly inspected for San Joaquin kit foxes or other special-status animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise moved. If an animal is discovered in a pipe, the pipe would not be moved until after the San Joaquin kit fox or other animal has escaped.
- Limit construction vehicle and equipment speeds. Project-related vehicle operators would observe a daytime speed limit of 20 miles per hour and a nighttime speed limit of 10 miles per hour throughout all project areas except on the highway.

- Minimize the adverse effects of lighting. Confine lighting to areas within the construction footprint.
- Prohibit the use of rodenticides, herbicides, and pest or rodent traps on the project site during construction.
- Provide an on-call biologist. A qualified Caltrans biologist would be on call during construction in case of any San Joaquin kit fox sightings in the project vicinity.

No-Build Alternative

No avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are expected under the No-Build Alternative.

2.1.5 Cultural Resources

Considering the information in the Cultural Resources Compliance Memorandum (Undertaking) dated January 2022, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources |
|--|--|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? | No Impact |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5? | No Impact |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | No Impact |

2.1.6 Energy

Considering the information in the Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference dated November 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Energy |
|---|--|
| a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation? | No Impact |
| b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | No Impact |

2.1.7 Geology and Soils

Considering the information in the California Department of Conservation Earthquake Zone Map Dated November 2021, California Department of Conservation Landslide Map dated November 2021, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map dated November 2021, and Caltrans Paleontological Identification/Evaluation Report dated December 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils |
|---|---|
| a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | |
| i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist- Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | No Impact |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | No Impact |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | No Impact |
| iv) Landslides? | No Impact |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | No Impact |
| c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | No Impact |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | No Impact |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | No Impact |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | No Impact |

2.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Considering the information in the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Memorandum dated December 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions |
|---|--|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | Less Than Significant Impact |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | No Impact |

Affected Environment

This project is 11.4 miles along State Route 41, which turns from a four-lane, access-controlled expressway into a two-lane, undivided highway within the project limits. Land use along State Route 41 varies from agriculture and vacant land to subdivisions/businesses and the census-designated town of Stratford. Trucks and urban commuter traffic use this section of State Route 41.

The 2018 Kings County Regional Transportation Plan by the Kings County Association of Governments guides transportation and housing development in the project area. Chapter 12 of the plan, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, discusses the emission reduction strategy for the region. The Sustainable Communities Strategy strives to reduce air emissions from passenger vehicles and light-duty truck travel by better coordinating transportation expenditures with forecasted development patterns and helping to meet greenhouse gas targets for Kings County.

Environmental Consequences

Build Alternative

Greenhouse gas emissions impacts of non-capacity-increasing projects like the Stratford-Lemoore CAPM project are considered less than significant under CEQA because there would be no increase in operational emissions.

However, construction equipment, traffic delays, and material processing and delivery may generate short-term greenhouse gas emissions during construction. Greenhouse gas emissions for the project were calculated using the Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool v1.1. The estimated emissions would be 579 tons of carbon dioxide per 119 working days.

While some construction greenhouse gas emissions would be unavoidable, implementing standard conditions or Best Management Practices designed to reduce or eliminate emissions as part of the project would reduce impacts to less than significant.

No-Build Alternative

No impacts on greenhouse gas emissions are associated with the No-Build Alternative.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Build Alternative

Caltrans Best Management Practices would be implemented during construction activities. Caltrans Standard Specifications that would be incorporated include:

- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, which requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes.
- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 10-5, a Dust Control Plan approved by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, would be needed if at least 2,500 cubic yards of material are moved in a day for at least three days of the project or if 5 or more acres of land would be disturbed during construction.

No-Build Alternative

Avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures would not be required for the No-Build Alternative.

2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Considering the information in the Caltrans Initial Site Assessment dated January 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
|---|--|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | No Impact |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | No Impact |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
|--|--|
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school? | No Impact |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | No Impact |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? | No Impact |
| f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | No Impact |
| g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? | No Impact |

2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Considering the information in the Water Quality Memorandum dated December 2021 and the Hydraulics Recommendation Memorandum dated April 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality |
|---|---|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface water or groundwater quality? | No Impact |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | No Impact |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality |
|--|---|
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | No Impact |
| (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite; | |
| (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite; | No Impact |
| (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or | No Impact |
| (iv) impede or redirect flood flows? | No Impact |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | No Impact |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | No Impact |

2.1.11 Land Use and Planning

Considering the information in the 2035 Kings County General Plan, Stratford Community Plan, and the Stratford Land Use Map, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Land Use and Planning |
|---|---|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | No Impact |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | No Impact |

2.1.12 Mineral Resources

Considering the information in the 2035 Kings County General Plan, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources |
|--|---|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | No Impact |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | No Impact |

2.1.13 Noise

Considering the information in the Noise Compliance Study dated December 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project result in: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Noise |
|---|---|
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | No Impact |
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | No Impact |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | No Impact |

2.1.14 Population and Housing

Considering the information in the Caltrans Right-of-Way Data Sheet dated December 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Population and Housing |
|---|--|
| a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | No Impact |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | No Impact |

2.1.15 Public Services

Considering that the project would not affect any government facilities or trigger the need for new facilities or government services, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services | |
|---|---|--|
| a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection? | No Impact | |
| Police protection? | No Impact | |
| Schools? | No Impact | |
| Parks? | No Impact | |
| Other public facilities? | No Impact | |

2.1.16 Recreation

Considering that the proposed project would not affect parks or recreational facilities or trigger the need for more recreational facilities to be constructed, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation | |
|--|--|--|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | No Impact | |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | No Impact | |

2.1.17 Transportation

Considering the information in the 2035 Kings County General Plan, the 2018 Kings County Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan, and the Stratford Community Plan, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Transportation | |
|---|--|--|
| a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | No Impact | |
| b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | No Impact | |
| c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | No Impact | |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access? | No Impact | |

2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

Considering the information in the Cultural Resources Compliance Memorandum (Undertaking) dated January 2022, the following significance determinations have been made:

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as

either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

| Question: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Tribal Cultural Resources | |
|--|---|--|
| a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or | No Impact | |
| b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. | No Impact | |

2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Considering that the proposed project is a highway maintenance project and would not trigger the need for utilities and service systems, the following significance determinations have been made:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems | |
|---|---|--|
| a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | No Impact | |
| b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? | No Impact | |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems | |
|---|---|--|
| c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | No Impact | |
| d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals? | No Impact | |
| e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | No Impact | |

2.1.20 Wildfire

Considering the information in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps, the following significance determinations have been made:

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire | |
|---|--|--|
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | No Impact | |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | No Impact | |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | No Impact | |

| Question—Would the project: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire |
|---|--|
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post- fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | No Impact |

2.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

| Question: | CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance | |
|--|---|--|
| a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | No Impact | |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | No Impact | |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | No Impact | |

Appendix A Title VI Policy Statement

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR P.O. BOX 942873, MS-49 SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001 PHONE (916) 654-6130 FAX (916) 653-5776 TTY 711 www.dot.ca.gov



Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

Gavin Newsom, Governor

August 2020

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Caltrans will make every effort to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its services, programs and activities, whether they are federally funded or not, and that services and benefits are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, color, or national origin. In addition, Caltrans will facilitate meaningful participation in the transportation planning process in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint, or obtain more information regarding Title VI, please contact the Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 324-8379 or visit the following web page: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/title-vi.

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, at 1823 14th Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811; (916) 324-8379 (TTY 711); or at <<u>Title.VI@dot.ca.gov</u>>.

Original signed by Toks Omishakin Director

"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability'

Appendix BFederal Endangered Species Act Determinations

| Species | Scientific Name | Status | Federal Endangered Species Act Determination |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Blunt-nosed leopard lizard | Gambelia sila | Federally Endangered | No effect |
| California jewelflower | Caulanthus californicus | Federally Endangered | May affect but is not likely to adversely affect |
| California red-legged frog | Rana draytonii | Federally Threatened | No effect |
| Delta smelt | Hypomesus transpacificus | Federally Threatened | No effect |
| Fresno kangaroo rat | Dipodomys nitratoides exilis | Federally Endangered | No effect |
| Giant garter snake | Thamnophis gigas | Federally Threatened | No effect |
| Giant kangaroo rat | Dipodomys ingens | Federally Endangered | No effect |
| Monarch butterfly | Danaus plexippus | Federal Candidate | No effect |
| San Joaquin kit fox | Vulpes macrotis mutica | Federally Endangered | May affect but is not likely to adversely affect |
| San Joaquin woollythreads | Monolopia congdonii | Federally Endangered | May affect but is not likely to adversely affect |
| Tipton kangaroo rat | Dipodomys nitratooides nitratoides | Federally Endangered | May affect and is likely to adversely affect |
| Vernal pool fairy shrimp | Branchinecta lynchi | Federally Threatened | No effect |
| Vernal pool tadpole shrimp | Lepidurus packardi | Federally Endangered | No effect |
| Western snowy plover | Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus | Federally Threatened | No effect |

List of Technical Studies Bound Separately (Volume 2)

Air Quality Memorandum January 2022

Noise Study Memorandum December 2021

Water Quality Memorandum December 2021

Natural Environment Study December 2021

Biological Assessment August 2021

Location Hydraulic Study November 2021

Hydraulics Recommendation Memorandum April 2021

Cultural Resources Compliance Memorandum (Undertaking) January 2022

Hazardous Waste Reports

• Initial Site Assessment January 2022

Scenic Resource Evaluation/Visual Assessment August 2021

Paleontological Identification Report December 2021

Climate Change Memorandum December 2021

To obtain a copy of one or more of these technical studies/reports or the Initial Study, please send your request to:

Juergen Vespermann District 6 Environmental Division California Department of Transportation 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, California 93726

Or send your request via email to: Juergen.Vespermann@dot.ca.gov Or call: 559-832-0051

Please provide the following information in your request: Project title: Stratford-Lemoore CAPM General location information: State Route 41 in Kings County District number-county code-route-post mile: 06-KIN-041-PM 28.4-R39.8 Project ID number: 0617000304